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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application of: **SAKAI, Kenichiro**

Group Art Unit: **2621**

Serial No.: **09/475,991**

Examiner: **Brian Q. LE**

Filed: **December 30, 1999**

**P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 7159**

**FOR: DOCUMENT IMAGE PROCESSING DEVICE, DOCUMENT IMAGE MERGING METHOD, AND STORAGE MEDIUM RECORDING A DOCUMENT IMAGE MERGING PROGRAM**

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116**

**- EXPEDITED RESPONSE -  
GROUP ART UNIT 2621**

**MAILSTOP AF**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

February 23, 2006

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated **November 28, 2005**, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 23 of this paper.